

REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-16 and 18-168 were pending. The Action restricted the present application to the following four claim groups:

Group I: claims 1-54;

Group II: claims 55-83;

Group III: claims 84-126; and

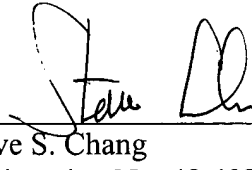
Group IV: claims 127-168.

Without comment on, or acquiescence in, the reasoning set forth in the Action for this restriction requirement, Applicant elects the Group IV claims (claims 127-168) for prosecution in the present application. The other claims (claims 1-16, 18-83, and 84-126) are canceled by the present amendment without prejudice or disclaimer, and with an express reservation of the full right to prosecute these claims by divisional application.

Applicants have also added new claims 169-189, which each recite (among other features) the use of a “predetermined sale limit” or “predetermined amount” in various methods. These claims are believed to distinguish over the art of record, since the reference applied in the prior Action (*Williams et al.*, U.S. Pat. No. 5,815,657) is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of

the novel methods involving the “predetermined sale limit” or “predetermined amount” recited in these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve S. Chang', is written over a horizontal line.

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